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ican contributions to the subject are correctly represented, and in which they receive due attention. The author gives every contributor to the subject a fair showing, and avoids expressing his preferences in a positive manner. On the contrary, he does in some instances rather exaggerate the objections to the views which he endeavors ultimately to sustain. The honesty of purpose is unmistakable. We cite, for instance, his doubts as to the reality of the inheritance of acquired characters. A fuller acquaintance with vertebrate palæontology would have enabled Professor Conn to be more certain of this fact.

One of the merits of this work is its suggestiveness. It indicates to the reader the many lines of research which stretch in every direction from the comprehensive standpoint of the author. It cannot fail to stimulate research, especially in America.

The leaning of the author is towards the views of the Neolamarkian school, which have been especially developed in this country since 1867-8.

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GENERAL NOTES.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.¹

ASIA AND THE ISLANDS.—*The Hill country of Assam.*—Mr. Needham's excursion in the Abor hills from Sadiya, on the Upper Assam, brought that officer into close communication with the savage Abors, whom he credits with being truthful and courageous. The village of Membo is on a site well chosen for defensive purposes. It is well supplied with pure water, yet two-thirds of the inhabitants have goitre. The houses are built on terraces hundreds of feet above each other. They are all massive buildings, sixty to eighty feet long by twenty wide, and have a large sheltered veranda in front. The boards of the fronts are often three or four feet wide, and the roof is thatched with the split stems of a thorny plant. There are no partitions inside, but privacy is not needed by a people whose women wear only a very short petticoat. Goitre was not noticed at other Abor villages.

Mr. Carles upon Korea.—The May issue of the Proc. Roy. Geol. Soc. contains Mr. W. R. Carles' account of his recent journeys in Korea. There are records to prove that Korea was inhabited in the twelfth century B. C., when Ki-tze introduced from China the first elements of civilization. It is evident, notwithstanding the seclusion in which the people have lived, that many stocks, including the Caucasian, entered into its original composition.

Korea contains about 90,000 square miles, and is divided into eight provinces. At the northern extremity lies Paik-to-san, the great mountain on which are the sources of the Amnok (Yalu) and Tuman, the rivers which form its northern boundary. From this mountain a range runs southwards, at no great distance from the eastern coast except at the extreme south, where it trends inland. The eastern coast has but few islands and harbors, and no rivers of any importance except in Kyong-Sang, at the south,

¹ This department is edited by W. N. LOCKINGTON, Philadelphia.